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WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT
ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH - FOR THE YEAR
1962.

WIMBORNE AND CRANBORNE RURAL DISTRICT

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH

COMMITTEE

1962.

Chairman.....Councillor W.L. Young

Vice-Chairman.....Councillor Mrs. R.D.N. Somerset

COUNCILLORS:-

H.C. Bailey

R. Park

Revd. W.R. Buckett

A.R. Priddle

G.P. Burt

T.H. Squire

J. Cheyne

T.H. Sutton

C.H. Degnan

Mrs. L.M. Tattersall

Commander H.S. Greenlaw

D.C. Trehane

Major A.P. Gumm

Col. P.J.K. Warren

F.C. Jennings

Col. H.C. Wheatley

2.

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

G.B. Hopkins, M.B., CH.B., B.Pharm., D.P.H.

Holding appointments of:-

Senior Assistant County Medical Officer.

School Medical Officer.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.

Medical Officer of Health - Wimborne Minster Urban District.

Medical Officer of Health - Borough of Blandford Forum.

Medical Officer of Health - Blandford Rural District.

contributing roughly:-

Wimborne and Cranborne Rural District.....	$1\frac{1}{2}$ days per week.
Wimborne Minster Urban District.....	$\frac{1}{3}$ day per week
Borough of Blandford Forum.....	$\frac{1}{4}$ day per week
Blandford Rural District.....	$\frac{1}{2}$ day per week

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR:-

W.R. Chick, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

ADDITIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTORS:-

F. Boam, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.,

G. Hall, M.A.P.H.I.

MEAT INSPECTORS:-

A. Holmes, M.A.P.H.I.

R.E. Hargreaves, M.A.P.H.I.

Dr. Noel Pearson of the North Dorset Area very kindly acts
as my deputy in an honorary capacity during my holidays.

3.

Area Office,
Civic Centre,
Wimborne Minster,
Dorset.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The year saw some lively repercussions from the small-pox outbreaks elsewhere in the country and there was some demand for vaccination in the district at a time when stocks of lymph could not reasonably be diverted. The only direct contact was a man who was a contact of a suspected case in a Northern hotel and the authority involved made an urgent request for vaccination of this man's family before he was released from supervision and allowed to travel home. This was one example of the vast amount of administrative work involved in the accepted procedure for arresting smallpox, namely placing successive barriers to the spread from known cases to immediate contacts by vaccination, and widening the ring progressively by vaccination of more remote contacts or potential contacts, at the same time resisting to the last moment the panic demand for mass vaccination which invariably arises.

The Sabin oral vaccine against poliomyelitis became available in February and despite the unfounded suspicions which attended the introduction of the Salk vaccine in this country, which might have been expected to attend the use of a live vaccine, the new vaccine was immediately welcomed and has proved very successful. It represents a peak of development of vaccine therapy.

The children in the district are becoming well protected against poliomyelitis but it is remarkable that a few parents still adamantly refuse to entertain their children being protected, even by this very attractive means.

The effect of immunisation with the triple vaccine against diphtheria, tetanus and whooping cough has achieved a quiet revolution reflected in the gratifying infrequency with which whooping cough is notified and the entire absence of notifications of diphtheria or tetanus in school children.

OCTOBER, 1963.

G. B. Hepburn.
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

SUMMARY OF VITAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres.....	80,863
Population - mid-year.....	28,690
Total estimated number of inhabited houses.....	9,447
Rateable value at 1st April, 1962.....	£278,669
Estimated product of 1d rate....1st April, 1962....	£1,120.17.

As supplied by the Registrar General

<u>LIVE BIRTHS</u>	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>WCRDC.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative County</u>
Total registered.	499	257	242			
Legitimate	475	246	229			
Illegitimate	24	11	13			
Standardised Rate.....				18	18.0 18.7	15.8

STILLBIRTHS

Total registered	10	7	3			
Legitimate	10	7	3			
Rate per 1,000 total live and still- births...				19.6	18.1	19.9

INFANT MORTALITY

Infant deaths (under one year)	7	5	2			
Legitimate	6	4	2			
Illegitimate	1	1	0			
Infant Mortality Rate.....				14	21.4	21.8

DEATHS

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>WCRDC.</u>	<u>England & Wales.</u>	<u>Administrative County</u>
Total registered	352	178	174			
Standardised rate.....				11.5	11.9	13.3

Comparability Factors.

Births	1.03
Deaths	0.94

SECTION A

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

POPULATION

The customary rise took place, the estimate probably being less than the actual.

BIRTHS

The rate was distinctly higher than ~~either~~ that for the County, ~~or England and Wales.~~

DEATHS

The rate showed a drop though it still closely approached the national figure.

SECTION B

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The Ambulance Service is provided by the Dorset County Council. Control is centralised in Dorchester and the service operates from local centres in Wimborne and Ferndown.

PUBLIC HEALTH LABORATORY

This is situated at Boscombe and provides an excellent bacteriological service.

MATERNAL AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

The County Council provided Infant Welfare Clinics in Wimborne, Ferndown, Handley, Verwood, West Moors, West Parley and Corfe Mullen.

HOME HELP SERVICE

The County Home Help Scheme provided a service in Wimborne and surrounding district.

SECTION C

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES

Tuberculosis.....	4
Measles.....	7
Erysipelas.....	2
Pneumonia.....	9
Scarlet fever.....	8
Food poisoning.....	5
	<u>35</u>

SECTION D

STATISTICAL TABLES..... 1962

<u>CAUSES OF DEATH</u>	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory	1	-
2. Tuberculosis, other.....	-	-
3. Syphilitic diseases.....	-	-
4. Diphtheria.....	-	-
5. Whooping Cough.....	-	-
6. Meningococcal infections.....	-	-
7. Acute poliomyelitis.....	-	-
8. Measles.....	-	-
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases.....	-	-
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach.....	2	6
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.....	13	1
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast.....	-	9
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus.....	-	1
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.....	23	12
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia.....	2	-
16. Diabetes.....	2	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system.....	20	18
18. Coronary disease, angina.....	44	25
19. Hypertension with heart disease.....	2	6
20. Other heart disease.....	13	30
21. Other circulatory disease.....	9	12
22. Influenza.....	1	1
23. Pneumonia.....	12	11
24. Bronchitis.....	8	5
25. Other diseases of respiratory system.....	3	-
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.....	1	1
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea.....	-	1
28. Nephritis and nephrosis.....	2	4
29. Hyperplasia of prostate.....	2	-
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion.....	-	-
31. Congenital malformations.....	2	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases.....	7	21
33. Motor vehicle accidents.....	4	4
34. All other accidents.....	3	4
35. Suicide.....	2	-
36. Homicide and operations of war.....	-	-
	<hr/>	<hr/>
TOTAL	178	174
	<hr/>	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS

At the end of the year the number of cases in the Tuberculosis Register was as follows:-

<u>Pulmonary</u>		<u>Non-Pulmonary</u>	
Males.....	80	Females.....	9
Females.....	63	Males.....	5

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION
STATISTICS.

<u>Basic</u> <u>course.</u>	<u>Poliomyelitis</u>			<u>Salk.</u>		<u>Diphtheria.</u>		<u>Whooping</u>		<u>Tetanus.</u>		<u>Smallpox</u>	
	<u>Oral.</u>		<u>P.</u>	<u>3rd.</u>	<u>4th.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>	<u>P.</u>	<u>B.</u>
	<u>3rd.</u>	<u>4th</u>											
04.	428.	48.	191.	524.	178.	497	399	473.	146.	712.	338.	1109.	1303

ADMINISTRATION

Considerable efforts were expended to place the administration of the department on a sounder footing.

Following an interview with the Chairman of Council your Medical Officer of Health issued a departmental instruction within the powers bestowed by the relevant Statutory Instrument designed to help in the correction of the hierarchical confusion mentioned in my last Annual Report. This instruction was raised by the committee Chairman at the following public health committee meeting and Council requested an urgent report upon it. This was duly circulated and a special meeting of committee called in August to consider it. Consideration of the report was however deferred indefinitely by Council without discussion, and in view of its fundamental importance your Medical Officer of Health incorporated it in a Special Report and forwarded copies to the County and Ministry of Health. This report also was not considered by Council but nevertheless a series of sub-committees were held and a final resolution accepted by Council.

FILTHY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES.

A family doctor drew my attention to the circumstances of an old man living in a hut in filthy circumstances.

This pathetic yet pleasant old man apparently habitually explained his appearance on to having just cleaned the chimney, his residual teeth gleamed like a nigger minstrel's in a coal black face. He kept his floor swept but all else was under a thick pall of dust. He was very determined not to receive help or to go away for a few days while his hut was cleaned up and he clearly lacked insight into the state he was in. Much patient persuasion was exercised and a request made to the welfare officer to continue this, but in a few days the old man became slightly confused and it transpired that he had a very septic and extensive burn from ankle to knee which he had carefully concealed.

At this juncture the old man fortunately realised his helpless position and agreed to go into chronic sick hospital, knowing that he was leaving his little wooden hut for good.

There arises a point in time in some elderly persons' lives after which they become too apathetic and withdrawn from society to agree to any change in their sometimes pathetically dirty and deteriorating mode of living and they become a liability to the community, and especially to their general practitioner and perhaps district nurse. Every effort should be made to identify this type of person when still sufficiently socially integrated to be capable of acceptance of a new situation likely to counteract the tendency to deterioration into isolation and squalor. One essential feature of this social treatment is to overcome physical isolation and loneliness, and in the absence of relatives one of the most promising steps is to rehouse in a decent small unit of accommodation with or without a warden according to circumstances, but with near neighbours, preferably sited within a mixed community, near to shops and other amenities, with the possibility of some community give and take between the old and the young, not forgetting the giving because merely taking makes old people feel unwanted, useless and finished.

In a rapidly developing district it is much more difficult to develop the above conditions than it is in a more stable community and the effort needed is greater. When concrete examples of the right sort of accommodation take shape, as they will shortly, and the local community, as the years go by, becomes familiar with the idea, it will be found that the elderly will become more and more anxious to avail themselves of their opportunities, and the occasional neglected old person will become a diminishing or non-existent liability.

The finances of this preventive social operation are rendered reasonably attractive by the grant offered by the County Council on the one hand, and the ready assistance to deserving cases of the National Assistance Board on the other hand. The work of the National Assistance Board is highly confidential and it may be that the help it gives to old people is still insufficiently known to the community in general and a few old people in particular.

Another case involving a solitary penniless woman living in circumstances of severe neglect in one room of a substantial but deteriorating house in an isolated country district was reported by the National Assistance Board to the district welfare officer and thence to me. Access was obtained only by the good offices of the local policeman.

This problem was clearly becoming worse and ultimately a notice was served on the tenant farmer, who had received no rent for years, to place the house in repair. A notice to quit was then served on the tenant, who shortly afterwards left in the care of a daughter. A substantial house was thereby recovered, the farmer lost an undesirable tenant, and a mounting social problem was cured, in this case without the necessity of rehousing by the Local Authority, which had been anticipated.

Yet another problem was reported by a family doctor who found a middle aged woman living in disgustingly insanitary neglect in a country cottage occupied by a three generation family, including a small child. After prolonged effort, persuasion and finally the firmest pressure, this woman was ousted by the family and was then taken into care in a County home, when a singularly adverse report was received about her state on admission.

A severe case of neglected scabies occurred in a family of four living in a caravan newly arrived in the district. This family was so badly affected and becoming so worn from lack of sleep due to skin irritation that arrangements were made in consultation with the consulting skin physician to remove the whole family to hospital where a rapid cure was effected. The caravan was fumigated.

Another scabies infestation took place in a family in a different parish, the source of infestation being traced to another county. There was no connection between these two infestations and no secondary cases came to light.

This condition is fortunately distinctly uncommon in this district but can spread so rapidly, and is so major an inconvenience that it needs very promptly and vigorously tackling when it does occur.

Persons in Need of Care and Attention - Section 47, National Assistance Act, 1948

Several old people were visited at the request of family doctors or health visitors. Some have been mentioned under the previous section and it is instructive to survey the others.

One was a man of 79 years who had recently been bereaved. He wanted Part III accommodation and was living in an increasingly neglected bungalow which he was under notice to vacate. This case was complicated by the old man's addiction to alcohol. While waiting for a vacancy in a County Council home he departed to live with relatives elsewhere.

A frail but still active man in his 90th year had also been bereaved and was under notice to quit. This case would have been suitable for an old person's flatlet with good warden's supervision. He remained an anxiety to the health visitor for many months but was eventually settled in a cheap private guest house in another district after one such attempt had proved unsuitable.

Two aged women living together in a large house which was becoming a shambles presented a problem. One aged 90 years, had burnt herself huddling in front of an open fire in a room literally ankle deep in rubbish. The other had been overwhelmed by the difficulty of coping. Both had been accustomed to better things. The aged one was removed to hospital very soon and transferred permanently to a chronic sick hospital. Once the place was cleaned up and home help provided the other one was able to cope, though occupying a rented house far too large and quite unsuitable to her needs.

Action was imperative in another case involving a man approaching 80 years who upset his family to such an extent that they departed and left him alone. After a few days the room he occupied had deteriorated alarmingly but the old man refused to co-operate with his doctor or your Medical Officer of Health and it was felt that he would very soon need to be removed. On the following weekend he was found on the floor by the postman. He still refused to go into hospital and he was obviously going to die in neglect and insanitary conditions, and accordingly he was removed into hospital on a magistrate's order upon the evidence of the family doctor and your Medical Officer of Health. Though the weather was quite mild the old man had developed a very dangerously sub-normal temperature, but he recovered in hospital and was later discharged when his wife, aged 80, and daughter agreed to take him back, apparently solely in order to preserve their tenancy of an ancient little farm cottage, they would otherwise have become homeless. Although his removal undoubtedly saved his life, this action again became necessary several months later, early in 1963.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955
Food Hygiene Regulations.

The following table lists various types of food premises and visits thereto:-

<u>Nature of business.</u>	<u>Number.</u>	<u>Visits.</u>	<u>Action Taken.</u>
Butchers.	13	105	
Fried Fish Shops	3	3	
Fishmongers and Poulterers.	2	9	
Cafe/Restaurants.	11	16	
Grocers.	76	271	
Greengrocers.	3	25	
Confectioners.	28	162	
Food Preparing Premises.		18	
Wholesalers.		15	
Clubs.		16	
Licensed Premises.	39	29	
Bakehouses.	7	12	

An administrative difficulty likely to cause friction arises when a developer puts forward plans for new shop premises and at a subsequent stage in building lets one or more shops as food premises . Unless the Public Health Department hears of this before it is too late it could become necessary for alterations to be effected in a brand new shop. Steps will be taken to try to avoid this difficulty as far as practicable by informing the developer at the planning stage of these possibilities.

Three cases of unsound food, none of a serious nature, were reported to Council during the year, involving milk, a pork pie and a chocolate eclair.

No action was taken by the Council in connection with unsound food.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955
Milk and Dairies (General) Regulations, 1959

These regulations are designed to ensure the observance of hygienic practices in dairies and are equivalent to the effect of the Food Hygiene Regulations upon food premises.

Adverse comment was made upon one dairy by County staff and protracted negotiations followed. The business had grown appreciably since first licensed and both premises and environment left much to be desired. Some tentative progress towards an eventual satisfactory outcome had been made by the end of the year following numerous visits.

Number of Dairies registered.....	12
Number of visits.....	9

MEAT INSPECTION

The Two full time inspectors were very hard pressed to maintain 100% inspection and were required to work rather burdensome overtime.

The district inspectors were also called upon to work at the abattoir to the extent of 150 hours.

Steps have subsequently been taken to increase staff so as to facilitate the work of inspection which cannot, unfortunately, be relied upon to proceed smoothly and evenly throughout respectably set hours.

Work commenced before the end of the year on extended office accommodation, welfare facilities including a canteen, and extra chilling and detention space.

A statistical analysis of the year's work is included at the end of this report.

CONDEMNED FOODS

107 lbs beef.
 68 lbs pork
 28 lbs pigs liver
 60 lbs cooked ham
 9 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs gammon
 6 lbs ox tongue
 42 lbs corned beef
 4 chocolate eclairs
 1 loag
 1055 miscellaneous tins.

ICE CREAM

The march of progress could probably be correlated very well with ice cream consumption, which bids fair to rival the daily bread as a staple article of diet. In the days when ice cream was iced cream suitably flavoured, it was a potentially very dangerous product but paradoxically now that milk and cream have become so safe with the use of the pasteurisation process, ice cream has become a very different product, the raw materials of which are essentially safe and wholesome. For this reason a further reduction in the numbers taken for examination was recommended, especially since nearly all ice creams sold in the district are the products of large manufacturers subjected to examination in numerous other districts. For this reason a written report was circulated to committee recommending in the interests of economy and efficiency the routine referral of laboratory results to the district of manufacture.

MEAT (STAINING STERILIZATION) REGULATIONS, 1960.

These regulations required knackers meat to be stained before sale, a practice which many regard as falling short of what is required since diseased meat is still diseased after staining and is not thereby differentiated from meat which is not diseased.

Unstained knackers meat was found on sale from a travelling pet meat van in a neighbouring city and the vendor's defence was to the effect that his source, which was in this Rural District, did not stain his supplies. This was not a defence and action had been contemplated against the salesman.

The necessary steps were taken to ensure that the knackers yard within the district stained all their meat within the terms of the statutory instrument which came into force in 1960.

ANTHRAX IN CATTLE

An outbreak of this disease occurred amongst cattle. It is normally so overwhelmingly and rapidly fatal that the farmer usually finds the cow or steer dead. A few cases occurred which disarmed suspicion by reason of the animal being found to be ill and both knackers' yards within the district unwittingly received anthrax carcasses, both of which had been opened and partially dressed before suspicion was roused.

The necessary steps were taken to warn all local doctors of the slight risk to the operatives, some of whom were treated on a purely precautionary basis.

Sterilisation of the knackers premises was closely examined in conjunction with the Director of the Public Health Laboratories, and laboratory control of the procedure adopted revealed it to be satisfactory and practical. The problems involved in this outbreak were subsequently discussed at a combined meeting of County and District Public Health Departments with the Director of the Public Health Laboratory, and liaison with the County Constabulary was later effected in view of the police interest in this problem.

BACTERIOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION OF MEAT FROM SLAUGHTERHOUSE.

At the above joint meeting a request was made for co-operation in examining meat from all slaughterhouses in Dorset and this proposal, together with practical details was placed before and accepted by Committee in October. Results do not suggest any cause for concern over the possibility of transference of food poisoning from cattle to man.

ICE-CREAM (Cont.)

The table which follows gives results in grades of freshness for various products:-

<u>PRODUCER.</u>	<u>Grade 1.</u>	<u>2.</u>	<u>3.</u>	<u>4.</u>	<u>Totals.</u>
Creemier.....	7	7	2	1	17
Eldorado.....	6	-	-	-	6
Lyons.....	9	2	2	-	13
Neilsons	5	-	-	-	5
Sarum Ice-Cream Co.....	1	-	-	-	1
Walls.....	15	2	-	-	17
<u>TOTALS.....</u>	43	11	4	1	59

It will be seen that the shift to the right in the products of one manufacturer, which has been noted in previous years, was maintained, and indicates a greater degree of staleness in this product.

WATER SUPPLY

A comprehensive statement upon piped water supplies has been included in previous reports.

During the year one minor main extension was installed near Cranborne and preliminary consideration given for two more minor extensions in Horton and Woodlands.

Forty-five samples of water were taken from various parts of the district and all were Class 1.

156 samples were taken from private supplies, of which 99 were excellent, eight satisfactory, eighteen suspicious though not bad, and 31 bad.

Of the 31 unsatisfactory supplies 9 were permanently corrected by the installation of a mains supply, six gave satisfactory results after corrective measures had been applied, and 16 remained as outstanding problems, the households having been warned of the necessity to boil the water.

Numerous households are quite unable to afford the high costs of a mains supply, which may indeed be prohibitive owing to distance, and the digging of a new well may be beyond some householders' purses. The Council have on occasions met the capital cost of a mains water installation and obtained repayment by instalments.

SEWERAGE

Total capital expenditure at the end of the year amounted to £630,000 and 1,200 more houses were connected to the sewers, substantially raising the number of connected properties to 2,700.

SEWERAGE - Contd.

Work commenced on the Palmers Ford Disposal Works, completion of which is expected in 1964. The capacity will be adequate for a population of 11,000.

Preliminary details of the main scheme for Corfe Mullen, were sent to the Ministry and an investigation has since been made by a Ministry Inspector.

In Autumn work commenced on connecting properties in the Pilford and Middlehill areas to the newly laid sewer and was nearly completed by December, thus ending a very trying chapter of trouble and complaint on the Brackenhill Estate. This latter was an excellent example of the sort of problem which arises for householders, Council and staff when development precedes sewerage on boggy heath land, and the satisfaction in all quarters at the rectification of this outstanding problem was heartfelt, as also is the wish that the Ministry will continue to support the Council in not allowing a repetition of the conditions which developed here. The growth of packaging is providing a steadily increasing problem in refuse disposal but the growth of bottling should not be allowed to extend to the bottling of sewage in 800 gallon containers sunk into the back garden, since a far worse problem of disposal arises, ruinously expensive for the household, and no mean item of cost to the Council, even if land is available for treatment.

86 reports of unsatisfactory drainage were made to committee. In one case it became necessary for the Council to invoke the Public Health Act and step in and undertake work owing to an owner's refusal, costs being recoverable from the latter.

SURFACE DRAINAGE.

Work continued on schemes for surface water drainage and the making up of private streets.

Rainfall, though persistent, was never excessive and the district was spared the trials of flooding as experienced in the winter of 1960/61.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL.

An extra vehicle was placed in service to cope with an increasing population.

The growth of packaging leads to an increase in bulk of refuse without coincidental increase in weight and in view of the time involved in haulage a compression vehicle is becoming an economic necessity.

The Council decided to extend the fortnightly collection to the northern parishes.

CESSPIT EMPTYING SERVICE.

Despite the substantial increase in the number of houses on main sewerage the demand for this service remained constant.

The economic cost per load reached 32 shillings per load and the standing charge remained at 26 shillings. The system of contracting to empty at regular intervals at reduced rates continued to be welcomed.

About 3,000,000 gallons of sewage were collected and dumped on heath land and vigorous protests were made by the local Parish Council at the offensiveness of this process, which constituted a statutory nuisance.

The Parish Council requested a meeting with your Medical Officer of Health and following a report to committee on the conditions which had developed, a sub-committee met and a much more satisfactory system of rotovating sludge into the land was adopted.

HOUSING

The comprehensive survey of houses with a rateable value below £10 commenced in the previous year was continued, nine parishes being surveyed during the year, making a total of eleven out of 21 which comprise the district.

26 houses were reported as being beyond repair and were dealt with as follows:-

Demolition Orders made.....	10
Agreements not to re-let on vacation.....	6
Sold and rendered fit.....	1
Awaiting representation.....	9

The customary routine resistance to change displayed by elderly people occupying unfit cottages has been met with. Such old folk need time coupled with some familiarity with actual suitable alternatives in bricks and mortar, and sometimes a little pressure, before they are capable of seeing the advantage of moving, but it has been my experience elsewhere that once the upheaval, which is naturally burdensome to old folk, has been faced, they are invariably very grateful for the modern amenities to which they have moved and of which they have had no previous experience upon which to base a judgment. They often have deep seated worries too about higher rents, but once having discovered the helpful and kindly attitude of the National Assistance Board these worries also melt away.

The relation between the numbers of owner-occupied and tenanted houses improved by grant of public funds continues to reflect in part the presence of large estates gradually improving their property in order to attract labour, the modern farm labourer and his wife being no longer content to be a depressed class as they have been in the past.

The national average figure for grant improved properties is 1.8%, whereas it is 8.3% in the rural district. This figure reflects the need for improvement of many rural dwellings and the fact that the policy of improvement grants has been vigorously pursued.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS.Discretionary Grants.

28 applications involving 47 housing units were received, six owner occupied and 41 tenanted. 6 applications were refused. The total sum granted was £11,326, averaging £241 per house, as opposed to £15,611 total for 1961 and an average of £289 per house.

STANDARD GRANTS.

The following table gives details together with those for 1961:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>No.</u> <u>approved.</u>	<u>Owner</u> <u>Occupied.</u>	<u>Tenanted.</u>	<u>Baths.</u>	<u>Wash-hand</u> <u>Basins.</u>	<u>Hot</u> <u>Water.</u>	<u>W.Cs.</u>	<u>Larders.</u>
1961.	64	32	32	39	44	47	45	33
1962	30	19	11	29	30	30	29	19

My last annual report dealt at some length with demolition class properties which remained to be dealt with throughout the district. Good progress has been made in dealing with this list of bad properties and although some remain, the programme of new building should enable the remainder of the properties outstanding on the 1961 list to be dealt with in the near future.

NEW BUILDING

During the year 21 new dwellings were planned and nearly all completed. They comprised 15 bungalows at the Tricketts Cross Estate, four bungalows reserved for old people at Stapehill Crescent, and two bungalows specifically for slum clearance of two families at Sturminster Marshall.

The following table summarises action taken since 1955:-

<u>Year.</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Demolished.</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Closed.</u>	<u>Houses</u> <u>Repaired.</u>	<u>Discretionary</u> <u>Grants.</u>	<u>Standard</u> <u>Grants.</u>
1955.	-	2	9	70	-
1956.	9	13	49	111	-
1957.	12	-	40	73	-
1958.	12	1	117	67	-
1959.	2	-	28	50	29
1960.	10	1	15	61	50
1961.	26	3	40	37	64
1962.	17	-	103	57	35
TOTALS.	88	20	401	526	178

HOUSING ACT, 1957, Section 3.
Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925

1.	The number of houses which on inspection were considered to be not in all respects fit for human habitation.....	101.
2.	The number of houses the defects in which were remedied in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their officers..	103
3.	The number of representations made to the Local Authority with a view to (a) the serving of notices requiring the execution of works or (b) the making of demolition or closing orders.....	38
4.	The number of notices served requiring the execution of works.....	63
5.	The number of houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices.....	3
6.	The number of demolition orders made.....	19
7.	The number of houses in respect of which an undertaking was accepted under subsection (2) of section eleven of the Housing Act, 1936.....	2
8.	The number of houses demolished.....	17

The Public Health Officers Regulations, 1959, Section 15 (4)

1.	The number of dwellings overcrowded.....	8
2.	The number of families therein.....	4
3.	The number of persons involved.....	30
4.	The number of new cases reported (in 1962).....	2
5.	The number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.	5
6.	The number of persons involved.....	33
7.	The number of return cases of overcrowding.....	Nil

Caravan Sites and Moveable Dwellings.

Owners of licensed sites continued to make progress towards the full standard of the Council's requirements. Five sites were completely brought up to standard and the remaining three will be by 1964.

All sites except one have enjoyed the amenity of water carriage closets since 1951.

The number of licensed pitches is now 403.

One site was the subject of complaint for an extended period and having eventually come to my notice from a member of the County Council staff, was reported to Committee. The complaints alleged inadequate supervision of the state of communal toilets, and mothers were alleged to be reluctant to complain openly for fear of being required to quit the site. This possibility underlines the necessity for very regular inspection of caravan sites since it is well known that a section of the population have no respect for communal lavatories, whether owned by a private individual or by a local authority, and this section, although a very small minority, can produce offensive conditions for the decent majority.

Overnight Camping along Trunk Roads.

Dorset shares this misfortune with other South Western Counties, and insanitary circumstances are inevitable, litter being an obvious manifestation. Litter baskets along the A31 at West Moors secured a small improvement but conditions were still disgraceful. It seems probable that the future will see large scale provision to meet this problem in the form of temporary parks and adequate sanitary accommodation furnished by the Ministry of Transport and perhaps administered locally. In the meantime the growth of private car transport seems likely to make this problem steadily worse.

DIDICOIS

Several such families visit the district and constitute a time consuming nuisance for your inspectors. They settle in any quiet spot regardless of permission and usually attract complaints very soon either by the natural suspicion with which local inhabitants view their disreputable appearance or by the eyesores they soon create, often with scrap metal. It is essential to move them on quite soon and they know the procedure. One mixed family settle in a favourite rural site regularly for several weeks before and after the birth of another baby and provide an excellent example of the conditions which develop when such families are allowed to remain for weeks.

The problem will not yield until sites subject to the control of local authorities become available and sufficient stimulus is applied for their regular use. This would enable the children to be educated at suitable schools and to become socialised, free from stigma, and eventually absorbed without question into the community. Another practical problem would be to decide which family belonged to which authority.

A special problem exists at West Moors where several families have in the past bought plots of land and are a permanent and unwelcome institution.

The Council propose to extensively develop this and surrounding areas when a sewerage system becomes available and to re-house these families.

Official action was authorised in order to secure the removal of two caravans.

PART III and IV PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 NUISANCES AND OFFENSIVE TRADES.

Four Statutory Notices were issued requiring the provision of a piped water supply.

Two Statutory Notices were issued requiring the abatement of nuisances constituted by defective premises.

PART II PUBLIC HEALTH ACT, 1936 SANITATION AND BUILDINGS.

Six Statutory Nuisances were served requiring attention to unsatisfactory drainage.

SUMMARY.Served.Complied.Informal.Statutory.Informal.Statutory.

Public Health Act, 1936.....	56	13	55	12
Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960.	-	1	-	1
Clean Air Act.....	1	-	1	-

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS

Number of Factories registered in the District.....	97
Number of Inspections made during the year.....	76

Factories Act, 1937 - Part 1 of the Act.

	<u>Number on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
1. Factories in which no mechanical power is used.....	9	38
2. Factories in which mechanical power is used.....	88	38
3. Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (Excluding outworkers premises).....	Nil	Nil

Number of cases in which defects were found:-

Particulars.

	<u>Found.</u>	<u>Remedied.</u>	<u>Referred to H.M. Inspector.</u>
1. Want of cleanliness.....	1	1	Nil
2. Other offences against the Act.....	2	2	Nil

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1957

Two premises are registered.

Rodent Control

This service continues to serve a very useful purpose and demands upon it are increasing, particularly for regular inspections at business and farm premises, a practice which is to be encouraged.

A statistical appraisal of the work done follows:-

	<u>Council</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Private</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Business</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>Agricul-</u> <u>tural</u> <u>Premises</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Total No. of visits made by staff.....	12	3,242	294	273	3,821
Total No. of premises inspected.					
(a) on complaint....	-	87	17	8	112
(b) on survey.....	12	3,155	277	265	3,709
Total No. of premises found infested.....	12	489	55	72	616
Number of premises treated.....	12	489	55	72	616
Number of premises cleared.....	12	489	55	72	616
<u>MICE.</u>					
Number of complaints received.....	-	8	3	4	15
Number of premises treated.....	-	8	3	4	15
Number of premises cleared.....	-	8	3	4	15

CARCASSES INSPECTED.

	<u>Cattle excluding cows.</u>	<u>Cows.</u>	<u>Calves</u>	<u>Sheep and Lambs</u>	<u>Pigs</u>	<u>Horses</u>
Number Killed	11,257	2,903	5,042	33,962	26,172	Nil
Number Inspected	11,257	2,903	5,042	33,962	26,172	Nil
<u>All diseases except tuberculosis and cysticerci.</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned.....	8	27	51	78	239	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	5,909	2,009	10	1,511	3,632	Nil
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole Carcasses condemned.....	27	1	-	-	5	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	239	6	-	-	478	Nil
<u>Cysticercosis.</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.....	96	18	-	-	-	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration.....	44	2	-	-	-	Nil

The figures above reveal that a close watch on the incidence of C.Bovis is essential. The overall average for the year is about the same for rather fewer cattle killed, by the greatest percentage (in July - 2.25) was higher than the corresponding figure for last year which was 1.8% in June.

Summary of Visits and Inspections by Public Health Inspectors during 1962.

Water Supply.....	381
Drainage.....	754
Stables and Piggeries.....	7
Caravans and Moveable structures.....	588
Factories etc.....	76
Refuse Collection.....	20
Refuse Disposal.....	208
Rodent Control.....	3821
Atmospheric Pollution.....	14
Schools.....	10
Miscellaneous.....	10
Knackers' Yards.....	7
Inspection of Houses under Public Health Acts.....	74
Inspection of Houses under Housing Acts.....	1095
Inspection of Houses under Housing Act (Overcrowding).....	2
Visits to Slaughterhouses.....	281
Butchers' Shops.....	105
Dairies.....	9
Fried Fish Shops.....	3
Fishmongers and Poulterers.....	9
Food Preparing Premises.....	18
Grocers.....	271
Greengrocers.....	25
Confectioners.....	162
Restaurants.....	16
Wholesalers.....	15
Clubs.....	16
Licensed Premises.....	29
Bakehouses.....	12
Inquiries into Cases of Infectious Diseases.....	2

